

## REMARKS

Applicant is nationalizing a PCT application PCT/DE03/002352 under 35 U.S.C. § 371(c), filed on July 11, 2003, designating the U.S. This PCT application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 365(a)-(c) to German Patent Application No. 102 31 964.2 filed in the German Patent Office on July 15, 2002. Both applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Applicant has amended claims 1-20. Applicant also has amended the specification by adding a paragraph at the beginning of the application, and deleting a paragraph on page 3. No new matter has been entered as a result of this amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for an early examination on the merits. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Charles Smith', written over a horizontal line.

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